

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method of operating an underground or inaccessible object, said object including a sonde arranged to emit  
5 signals having a plurality of non-orientation-dependent characteristics, said method comprising the steps of;  
applying a predetermined rotation sequence involving  
at least one rotation step to said object;  
detecting said rotation sequence;  
10 wherein said detection of said rotation sequence causes  
said sonde to change from the emission of a first signal  
having a first non-orientation-dependent characteristic  
to the emission of a second signal having a second non-  
orientation-dependent characteristic.

15

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first  
non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second  
non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal  
are a first carrier frequency and a second carrier  
20 frequency respectively.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first  
non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second  
non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal  
25 are a first data output sequence and a second data output  
sequence respectively.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first  
non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second  
non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal  
5 are a first data transfer rate and a second data transfer  
rate respectively.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first  
non-orientation-dependent characteristic and said second  
10 non-orientation-dependent characteristic of said signal  
are a first output power and a second output power  
respectively.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding  
15 claims wherein said rotation sequence comprises a  
plurality of rotation steps.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein each rotation  
of said plurality of steps is completed within a  
20 predetermined time limit.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding  
claims wherein said object is an underground boring tool.

25 9. Apparatus for operating an underground or  
inaccessible object, said apparatus including including;

a sonde for emitting a plurality of signals having predetermined non-orientation-dependent characteristics;

rotation means for applying a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to said

5 object;

detection means for detecting said predetermined rotation sequence; and

response means activated by said detection of said predetermined rotation sequence for causing said sonde to

10 change from the emission of a first signal having a first non-orientation-dependent characteristic to the emission of a second signal being a second non-orientation-dependent characteristic.

15 10. Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said object is an underground boring tool and said detection means is a roll sensor.

11. A method of operating an underground or inaccessible 20 object including a sonde, said object being connected to an operator triggered drive means

said method comprising the steps of;

signalling from said drive means to said sonde, said signalling including the operator triggering said 25 operator triggered drive means to apply a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to

said object;

detecting said rotation sequence;

wherein said detection of said rotation sequence causes said sonde to change from a first operation function to a second operation function.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said rotation sequence comprises a plurality of rotation steps.

10 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein each rotation  
of said plurality of steps is completed within a  
predetermined time limit.

#### 14. Apparatus for operating an underground or

15 inaccessible object including;

a sonde;

operator-triggered drive means connected to said object for applying a predetermined rotation sequence involving at least one rotation step to the object to

20 signal to said object in response to a trigger from the  
operator;

detection means for detecting said rotation sequence; and

response means activated by the detection of said  
25 predetermined rotation sequence for causing said sonde to  
change from a first operation function to a second

operation function.